



OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 10

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FROM THE EDITOR!

NEWS FLASH!!

Dave, W7UUU has decided to take on the editorship of this fine publication, probably after the first of the year, when new officers begin their respective duties.

I will be moving to the Secretary's position. I'm kind of nervous about this move but I promise to give it my best! Bear with both of us as we begin new jobs at The Radio Club of Tacoma!

So congratulations to Dave and maybe to me...

In other news... Nothing of note is going on at RCT this month. We do have a nice picture collage of the new roof going on the garage in late September, something that was way past needing replacement. We need to thank Adam W2NCC, our facilities manager, for getting this job done. Not to forget the workers either: Mike W7MKE, Randy WB4SPB, Doug AB7DG and Mike W7XH.

A couple of us lazy guys also hung out giving moral support...

Hey! It's a hard job too and someone has to do it!

Contest season is here! Of course, we kicked it off with the Salmon Run fundraiser, which has gone splendidly thanks to the folks who did the radio work and all those members who made pledges. We have managed to mostly break even this year on expenses, despite the heavy costs of much needed repairs to the clubhouse, garage and shed.

Again, a big, big note of thanks to all who participated and/or donated!

73 Gary WG7X



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Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting
October 4, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7pm local by President Mike W7XTZ.

Officers and Directors Present.

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary : Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board: Paul Matney W7PFU
Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum?

A quorum of Board Members was present. A total of eighteen members attended in person or via zoom. The Attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness?

Bob K7MXE has back problems and will have an operation on October 18th.

PJ N7PH is home and doing better, recovering from some falls.

Nick K7MO has been in the hospital a couple of times lately fighting infection and modifying his cleansing protocol.

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the September 6th RCT BOD meeting as circulated were approved without objections and will be posted on our website.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Mike W7MKE reported receipt of normal correspondence this month. Mike also moved to pay Collins Grange \$255 to rent their hall December 10th. Motion was seconded and passed without objections.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve AF7YD submitted a financial report that is attached to this report. Members may see these reports in approved Board Minutes on the website or contact Steve. Steve reported an anomaly with the City of Tacoma's utility bill auto pay. The city has it as paid but Chase Bank has not deducted it from our account. Eventually, this will get resolved but was a curious anomaly.

Committee / Reports

Membership / Salmon Run (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported membership is 318 members and then presented a breakdown of our membership that showed over 200 of the club membership was aged 60 and over. He then showed the last ten

years of member retention, which has averaged about 30%. Mike reported on the Salmon run with how it has fared since 2018. The Salmon run donations have been very generous over the years since then. Salmon run donations account for about 1/3 of all income needed for a year's operations. This year we had a big increase in how many members participated. Mike submitted an itemized budget for 2024 for membership activities for \$XXXX. Last year's budget was \$XXXX, and Mike wants to do one additional mailing. Red WB7EC moved to table the budget request until the January BOD meeting. Motion seconded by Doug AB7DG. Motion passed.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen AD7AB told the Board that he did not have enough people signed up, so the training was cancelled for this weekend.

Becky KG7FZH updated her request for Camp Quest Northwest to be in January during MLK Weekend rather than this November as previously requested. This date does not conflict with Stephen's normal Tech Training weekends. Becky and Sam N9MII will take the lead on training and Stephen and Steve AF7YD will assist with training. Becky said her next steps are to receive approval from this Board so Camp Quest can move forward. Any adults who interact with the Kids must have a background check that the Camp Quest will pay for. During the Club's Saturday open house, the Camp Quest kids will be off our site visiting other places. The target is for 10-15 kids and some camp chaperones.

Mike W7MKE moved to allow Camp Quest NW January 12 – 15 to use the RCT facilities for their training. Motion was seconded by Adam W2NCC. Motion passed without objections.

Mike W7MKE moved to budget up to \$XXX to pay for the Training Manuals and VE testing expenses of the Camp Quest Students. Motion was seconded by Paul W7PFU. Motion passed unanimously.

VE REPORT (AC7WW)

John AC7WW reported that Tuesday, September 12, 2023, your VE Team graded 15 exams. Four new Technicians joined the Amateur Service. Three candidates upgraded to General. One candidate upgraded to Extra.

Thanks to the following for their service and time.

Rich, KK7VH, Mike W7XH, Rob K7TGU, Dave K7FI, Stephen AD7AB, and Whit KG7LNZ.

Friday, September 22, 2023, your VE Team traveled south to JBLM. We graded 23 exams from 12 candidates. Eight Candidates passed element 2 and one passed element 2 and 3. Two candidates failed to pass an initial element.

Thanks to the following for their service and time.

Mike W7XH, Rob K7TGU, Stephen AD7AB and Steven, AI7QM.

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday, Oct. 10TH 2023. Time to be determined.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reports all systems nominal.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phi K7PIA reported all stations operating, the Flex is back from repairs and was ready for Salmon run. See www.contescalendar.com for contesting. A lot of DX coming up in October. There is still some work to get the VHF station working digitally.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al, N7OMS reports; We received a request from Quentin K7DRQ to include our repeaters in the November Repeater Roundabout. The Board had no objections to Quentin using our repeaters for the Roundabout November 11-12. See www.repeaterroundabout.com/ for more information on this contest. Dan KD7SV reported he knew of a good location that we could use for temporary VHF/UHF during that event.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on the new garage roof. We probably saved the club \$5K by doing this with club volunteers. Adam reported that a new gate for materials and labor would be \$XXX for the same type of chain link gate. Adam moved to budget \$XXX for the new gate and labor. Motion was seconded by Paul W7PFU. Doug AB7DG proposed that a chain or bar would accomplish the same thing at lesser expense. Motion carried with one objection.

Adam also reported that there is a team of club members that have put together a grant proposal to submit to the Nisqually Tribe for \$37K for tower repairs and a new heat pump heating/cooling system. They will also explore a grant from ARRL.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC moved to dispose of equipment of the items listed on the PMT list. Motion was seconded by Paul W7PFU. Motion carried without objections.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV has reported no significant work on equipment repairs due to his family obligations lately but expects to be here Saturday to look at the Drake L4-B.

Wednesday Workshop (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reported no topic has been determined.

General Meeting (W7UUU)

Dave W7UUU reported via email that Cy Humphreys, N7PV, will be doing a presentation on the FCC RF Exposure Documentation and Compliance.

Unfinished Business.

Inventory update for insurance: Steve AF7YD reports he and Manny AD7MA are finalizing the database.

New Business.

Standing Rules proposals & Edits: The BOD will have a special meeting on October 18 at 6:30pm for the purpose of reviewing submission to the Standing Rules. Mike W7XH proposed we create an ad hoc Planning Committee chaired by Manny AD7MA. The Board reviewed the language in the Bylaws about ad hoc committees.

Mike W7MKE moved to create a Planning Committee with Manny AD7MA as the chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed without objections and the thanks of the BOD to Manny and Mike for Coming forward with a need as well as a solution.

Mike W7XH proposed to the BOD that we adopt the Directors Leadership Guide by Larry Watson KD7VOM dated 2011. The board did not want to act on this until possibly the next board meeting in November so we can have an opportunity to review the document as it needs updates and clarification as to its status as far as compliance with it is concerned.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements.

The Western WA Amateur Repeater Association is looking for a new officer to fill the role of Board Secretary. Contact Grant Hopper KB7WSD at chair@wwara.org.

BJ WA7WJR reports a POTA activation at flaming geyser park this Saturday.

Doug AB7DG talked about the Great Shakeout October 19th. It is an earthquake drill. Look for it on the web at Winlink.org for more information on how to participate.

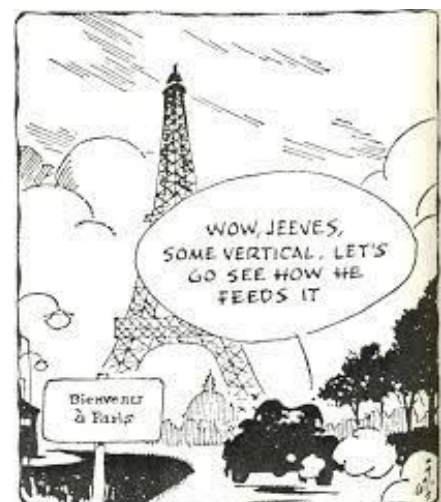
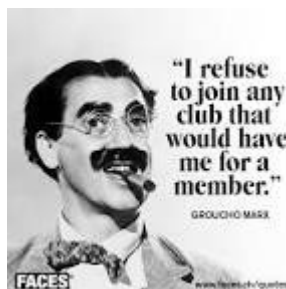
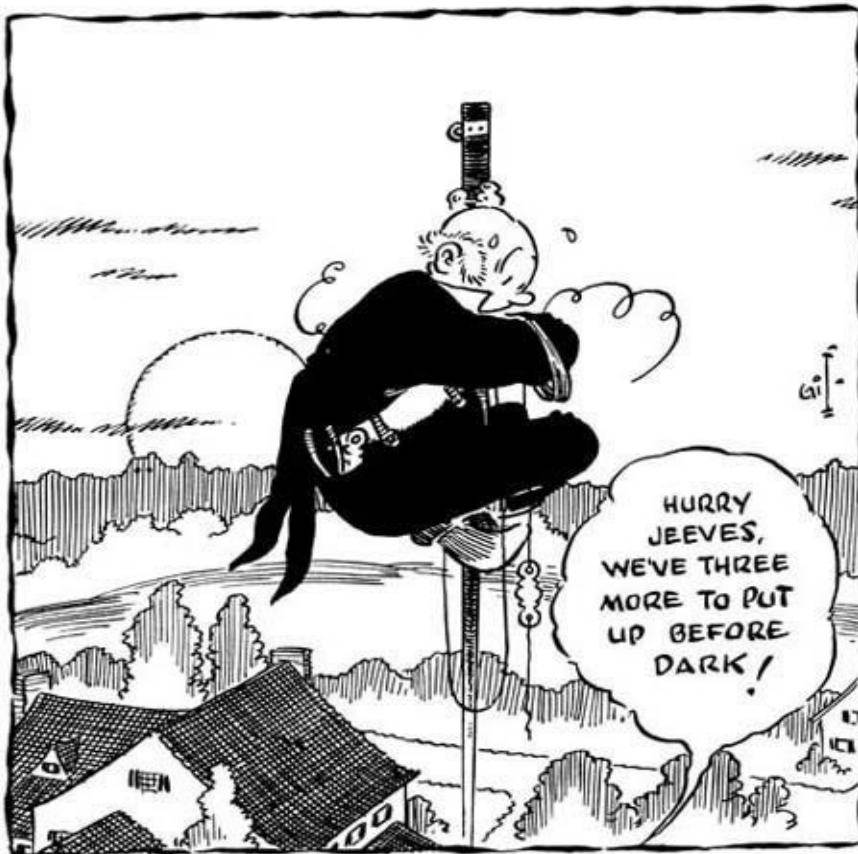
Andy Willms KE7RTB sends his regards from Huffman, TX, 25 miles NE of Houston, TX. Andy is battling stage 4 prostate cancer.

Adjournment at: 21:03

Submitted by

Michael Drorbaugh W7MKE

RCT Secretary



Radio Club of Tacoma

General meeting minutes

September 13th 2023

Officers and Directors Present

President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board	Paul Matney K7PFU
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:02 pm by President Mike W7XTZ

Flag Salute: Led by Mike W7MKE

Quorum? (10% of membership required to “conduct business”) A quorum was not present. Twenty-seven members and visitors attended via Zoom or at the Clubhouse.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors

Apologies, I missed his name, but we had one of our newer members join by zoom.

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

Bob Hewlett N7NCP had gum surgery and is recovering.

PJ Hicks N7PH took another fall and had to get stitches in his scalp. He’s doing OK.

Nick K7MO is fighting infections and is getting a new cleansing protocol that should be more convenient or easier.

PROGRAM: Cy Humphreys, N7PV, gave a presentation on the FCC RF Exposure Documentation and Compliance. Cy is kind of local as he lives near Bellevue, WA.

RF exposure: MPE = maximum personal exposure

As of May 3, 2023, All Amateur Stations must evaluate their station for RF exposure. You do not have to report this, but you should do the calculations and file them.

- Why important?
- It is for safety reasons and is an FCC License Requirement.
- Exposure is Controlled or Uncontrolled. Controlled is you (occupational). Uncontrolled is the general population or neighbors approximate to your station.
- May 2023 QST Magazine is highly recommended reading.

- Download publication for **free from ARRL** website prepared by Ed Hare W1RFI entitled: RF Exposure and You.
- Several online calculators are available: ARRL, Lake WA Radio Club, etc.
- Most safe distances for 100W station range from <.5 ft to about 4 FT.
- For a 1KW station dipole: safe distances are 4ft to 10ft or so.
- A 1KW Yagi, control distance may be 10 – 25 ft. from antenna, not from the feedline.
- VHF/UHF stations have a need for greater distances from antennas, especially multi-element beams, may need 25 ft or more.
- A 50w UHF station may require that you be 5 ft from uncontrolled exposure. (mobile stations be aware)
- In most cases for power and frequency, the height of the antennas is adequate separation.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Mike reported that this month's correspondence was all routine, QSL cards, magazines, Salmon Run Donations, etc. We paid Collins Grange to rent their hall for December 10th awards banquet.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve reported all bills are paid. We've spent more than we've taken by about \$X.XK, due to maintenance and equipment losses. The treasurer's reports are available online in BOD minutes or by asking Steve.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership & Salmon Run (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH gave the report he did for the BOD last week on the breakdown of our membership. It shows the club is aging out and other interesting information. Our current membership is 318 and as of the new year about 275 must renew.

He also reported on the Salmon Run donations, which showed greater participation and more in-kind contributions. In the last 6 years SR has brought in about \$XXK. Salmon run, PMT and Membership each contribute about 1/3 of our needed income each year.

Membership and election ballots will both be mailed together and are planned to go out by week's end.

Training (AD7AB)

Mike W7XTZ reported that Stephen AD7AB cancelled last weekend's Technician training due to lack of participation.

VE Report (AC7WW)

John's written report was read by Leonard KA7NWF: Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023, your VE Team graded 22 exams from two sessions. Three candidates passed their technician exam, one candidate passed their Tech and General exams. Three upgraded to General. Another candidate passed the General and Extra exams. We had one candidate renew his amateur license. One candidate failed to obtain an upgrade. Also, one candidate was 12 years old, and another was 17 years old.

Thanks to the following for their service and time.

Manny, AD7MA, Leonard KA7NWF, Rich KK7VH, Mike W7XH, Rob K7TGU and Stephen, AD7AB.

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday, Nov14TH 2023. Time to be determined.

POTA (WA7WJR)

BJ told of last weekend's POTA event at Flaming Geyser Park. Eight people showed up including a couple of non-members as well. Two antennas were used with best DX being a contact from Spain. The next POTA is going to be the last week of October. For November/December he may look for a park with cabins and perhaps do an overnight 2-day event.

IT Report /4th Wednesday (WB4SPB)

Randy reports all systems nominal, and no topic chosen yet for 4th Wednesday.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan reported not much activity in museum lately as he's not been able to be here. He anticipates he can get back soon to more normal activities.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported PMT was slow and last month took in \$XX. New stuff is coming in all the time and the list is posted on the kitchen bulletin board and online in the member area.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Major facilities repair this year include:

- New kitchen ramp
- Fascia board & soffit work and painting
- New electrical service drop
- New garage roof

Upcoming:

- Replace the gate into the parking lot.
- Extensive tower maintenance and grounding.
- Antenna repositioning: possibly move Garage beam to VHF/UHF tower.
- Complete the security cameras & lighting installation.

Bark Editor (WG7X)

Gary asked everyone to read last month's Logger's BARK. We are looking for a new BARK editor as Gary is going to run for club secretary for 2024.

Unfinished Business

Report of the Nominating Committee and call for nominations: Mike W7XTZ called for nominations three times: for VP, Secretary and 3 at-large Board seats. David Ashley W7GEL nominated himself for a Board position. We have 4 people running for BOD now.

New Business

Nothing offered.

Announcements/show and tell/ traffic & Tuning.

- On Thursday October 19th: The Great Shakeout event. See Winlink.org for information. Also go to Shakeout.org to register as a participant.
- Creation of Planning Committee to look into the future needs and direction of our club. See Manny AD7MA the committee chair if you can help.
- The BOD has endorsed the Camp Quest NW project to be held next January 12-15, 2024. The BOD voted up to \$XXX to pay for books and VE testing for the students.
- Brad Cullen WA7BTC indicated appreciation for the excellent Club Membership cards that George K7GRS made for us.
- Dave W7UUU indicated great DX now ongoing. Good propagation on 10 – 12M. Especially 10m FM on 28.6mhz and 29.3mhz for mobile SSB.
- Phil KC7PS indicated Spain and Cuba on FT8.
- BJ WA7WJR indicted several South Pacific islands active. This weekend is All Oceanic contest so look for lots of participation.
- Manny AD7MA reports Philippines on 40M during the early morning: 05:00 – 07:00.

Wanda R. R. R.

RCT Secretary

Mike W7MKE and
Mike W7XH at field
day this year.
(2023).





by Dave W7UUU



This month's topic: How does the QRZ Call Sign Database work?

Hello everyone and welcome back to the QRZ News You can Use column! As a staffer of the largest ham radio site in the world and Director of the QRZ Forums, every month I hope to bring you behind-the-scenes info on the workings of this great web site that most hams use in one way or another.

Arguably the most common thing most hams think of when they think of QRZ.com is “looking up someone’s call sign” either to see where they are located, see their station photos and personal details, check their QSL preferences, or even check their license level and status.

As I write this, it’s October 23, 2023 and exactly thirty years ago today, October 23, 1993, QRZ founder Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, launched QRZ as a publishing company with its initial product offering being data backup tapes, listing all US hams from the FCC database. Since that data is free public information, all it took was some clever programming (Fred was a programmer by trade at the time) to filter the FCC data into a user-friendly format that could be stored on a data tape, and later burned to CD ROM

(which surpassed tape systems to become the most common “large file portable data” format at the time).

Once the database was adapted for the CD ROM format, it became a more marketable item, selling for \$19.95 and include not only US call signs in searchable format, but the disc was also packed with tons of “pre-World Wide Web” shareware programs for radio amateurs—quite an added bonus!

Today, the FCC is still the primary source of data for all US hams and this information is culled from the massive FCC Universal Licensing System, or ULS as most hams know it. Every day the FCC updates radio licenses of every possible type, from commercial broadcast stations to GMRS and every US-sanctioned wireless system in between. And this of course includes amateur radio licenses.

When a new license is granted, or a current licensee upgrades or changes their address, this updated information is entered into the ULS through a number of possible input systems.

Custom software written by software engineers in the IT department of QRZ daily polls the FCC ULS and gleans from it data pertaining to radio amateur licenses including new issues, changes to mailing address, upgrades to license class, and expiration/cancelation notices. This data then populates automatically into the very user-friendly database we all know as QRZ.com. Hams are allowed up to 100 lookups per day using the QRZ database with no subscription required. Of course, contesters and DXers usually purchase

a subscription, called “XML User” for the entry level, which then grants unlimited lookups for those big contest days when 100 per day wouldn’t even come close to being enough!

Additionally, the QRZ database is openly friendly to interfacing into other systems, most notably logging programs such as N3FJP Amateur Contact Log and many others. This is handled using a software tool called an API, or Application Programming Interface, that provides a secure path from the 3rd party application into the QRZ database. The API communicates with the QRZ servers to verify user status before securely and quickly serving up the requested call sign data to the requesting logbook software.

Many users ask: “How can I change things like my name or address in my QRZ lookup?”. The simple answer is you need to change that data directly with the FCC ULS, after which it will appear automatically on QRZ within one to three days. However, lately there has been discussion internally at QRZ to create an access page where users could change their own lookup data at will. Nothing firm has been decided on this, so only time will tell if this becomes a user feature in future QRZ.com site updates.

So what about all those DX stations that don’t use the US-only FCC system? Well, many users of the forums may have noticed the forum called “Please add my call sign to the database”. That’s the most common point of entry for non-US hams to get set up in the QRZ system so other hams can find them, and so they may have their own QRZ bio page. This of course is because QRZ simply doesn’t have access to the licensing authorities of other nations, so those users must apply manually for inclusion in the database. It’s not uncommon for DX users to refrain from entering an actual mailing address, simply listing a city and a country. The US is unique among many countries in that our license data is in the public domain, and a mailing address is required to be a part of that data. Most other countries have much more strict privacy laws so many DX stations just by their nature default to supplying the least amount of personal data as possible. And as mentioned, QRZ may start allowing US hams to redact some of their details as well in a possible site update down the road.

So while most users of QRZ.com tend to think of the site as mostly an internet forum, with a Swapmeet, far and away the most popular feature by order of magnitude is the call sign database... there is truly no other such database on the scale of QRZ out there, boasting over one million users at any given time.

That’s it for this month!

73

Dave

W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUB HOUSE; GARAGE REPAIR EDITION!

As most of us are aware, recently we had repairs done to the garage roof. The effort was spearheaded by Adam W2NCC and ably assisted by Mike W7MKE, Randy WB4SPB, Doug AB7DG and Mike W7XH. Presented here in picture collage form, are the crew hard at work. This actually was done September 29th, but for “reasons” we were unable to put them in that month’s newsletter.

So with out further ado, here they are!



Left, Randy WB4SPB on the tower. OSHA be darned, we gotta job to do! Top right, Randy again. Generic shot setting the scene.



Right we see Doug and Randy on the roof, and Mike W7MKE and Mike W7XH supervising. We have an abundance of Mikes here at RCT.





Left, Mike W7MKE stapling the water barrier down. This time Randy WB4SPB gets to supervise. In the back, Mike W7XH and Doug AB7DG staple the other end of the vapor barrier. Used to be tar paper! Now it's all "modern".

Right, Mike W7MKE grandstanding on the roof. He was advised not to fall off. RCT insurance would not like a work related injury. Other Mike and Doug haven't moved! Much...





The “money shot” at top showing all the “worker bees” hard at work. Team Leader Adam insisted on this shot! We’re looking at Mike W7XH’s posterior, arguably his best side?!?

At left we see Randy tightening up the catenary line that carried the coax from the shack overhead to a vertical antenna on the guy post directly east of the RCT building.

Kudo’s to all the hard working RCT facilities maintenance team for getting a lot of necessary work done this year.

“On time and under budget!” as the manager works like to say...

A Brief History of the Amateur Radio Conditional License

By Jim Miccolis, N2EY – Submitted with permission by Dave W7UUU

The Conditional license played a key role in US Amateur Radio for decades yet is sometimes forgotten in licensing discussions.

The Conditional license began as the Class C license, about 1934. From then until 1951, there were 3 classes of US amateur license:

Class A - full privileges, available by FCC-conducted exam only.

Class B - full privileges EXCEPT no phone operation on the bands between 2.5 and 25 MHz. Available by FCC-conducted exam only

Class C - full privileges EXCEPT no phone operation on the bands between 2.5 and 25 MHz. Available by mail exam using a volunteer examiner (note the intentional lack of capital letters). Only available to those living more than 125 miles "airline" from an FCC exam location, or people with permanent physical disabilities which prevented them from traveling to an FCC exam session.

All license classes required 13 wpm code tests (sending and receiving) and a written test on regulations, radio theory, and operating practice. Class A also required at least one year as a Class B or Class C plus an additional written test. (Note: before 1936, the code test speed was 10 wpm)

The Class C license had several added conditions:

- Class C carried no exam credit towards Class A. If a Class C amateur wanted a Class A, they had to not only travel to an FCC exam point but had to pass the Class B tests all over again in front of an FCC examiner, before being allowed to try the Class A exam.

- Class C licensees who violated regulations could be required to appear before an FCC examiner for re-testing, regardless of distance, or lose the license.

- Class C licensees who moved to within 125 miles of an FCC exam point had 90 days to appear and pass the Class B exams, or lose the license.

There were no VECs or similar organizations for volunteer examiners. A volunteer examiner could be anyone with a valid Class A or B license, or certain FCC commercial licenses, or certain military or government radio operators. Only a single volunteer examiner was needed. The volunteer examiner would certify the code skill of the prospective amateur but did not grade or check the written exam; it was sent to FCC for grading.

The requirements for a volunteer examiner, and the by-mail exam procedure, varied over time. In no case could a Novice, Technician or Conditional licensee be a volunteer examiner - but there were times when someone who held, or had recently held, a Commercial Radiotelegraph Operator license, or who was or had been a US military or government radiotelegraph operator, could be a volunteer examiner even if they didn't

hold an amateur license. There were times when the person who administered the code tests didn't have to be the same person who administered the written tests. All depended on the particular time period.

In 1951, the FCC restructured the US amateur license structure. Three new license classes were added - Novice, Technician, and Amateur Extra. The existing Class A license was renamed Advanced, the existing Class B license was renamed General, and the existing Class C license was renamed Conditional. The test requirements and privileges for existing licenses were unchanged.

The new Amateur Extra license was supposed to replace the Advanced (former Class A) license as the top license, and the FCC announced that there would be no new Advanced licenses issued after the end of 1952. This caused some consternation, because the new Extra license required 2 years' experience rather than 1, 20 wpm code rather than 13, and an even more involved written test. So there was a bit of a rush to get Advanced licenses, as the requirements for a full-privileges license were being raised considerably.

But then, in mid-December 1952, FCC announced that all General and Conditional licenses would get full privileges as of mid-February 1953, removing all operational reason to upgrade beyond those licenses. So from February 1953 to November 1968, Conditionals had full privileges without ever having taken an FCC-conducted test.

In 1954, FCC made additional changes. The "Conditional distance" was reduced from 125 to 75 miles "air line", and the requirement to retest if you moved closer was eliminated.

In 1965, FCC changed the "Conditional distance" to 175 miles, greatly decreasing the places qualifying for Conditional licenses.

Finally, in 1975 the FCC phased out the Conditional license by renewing all Conditional licenses as General. By 1980 there were none left (because the license term was 5 years back then).

Callbook numbers reveal that Conditionals accounted for about 16% of US amateur in the 1950s and 1960s, and began to decline in the early 1970s. At its peak (about 1968), there were about 43,000 Conditionals.

In the 1953-1968 time period, FCC made other rules changes, most of which benefited 'phone operators:

- The 75 and 20 meter 'phone subbands were widened.
- 40 meters, which had previously been CW-only, got a 'phone subband
- A new band at 15 meters was allocated to amateurs worldwide. It was CW-only in the USA for a short time, but soon got a 'phone subband.

Some other history of the Conditional:

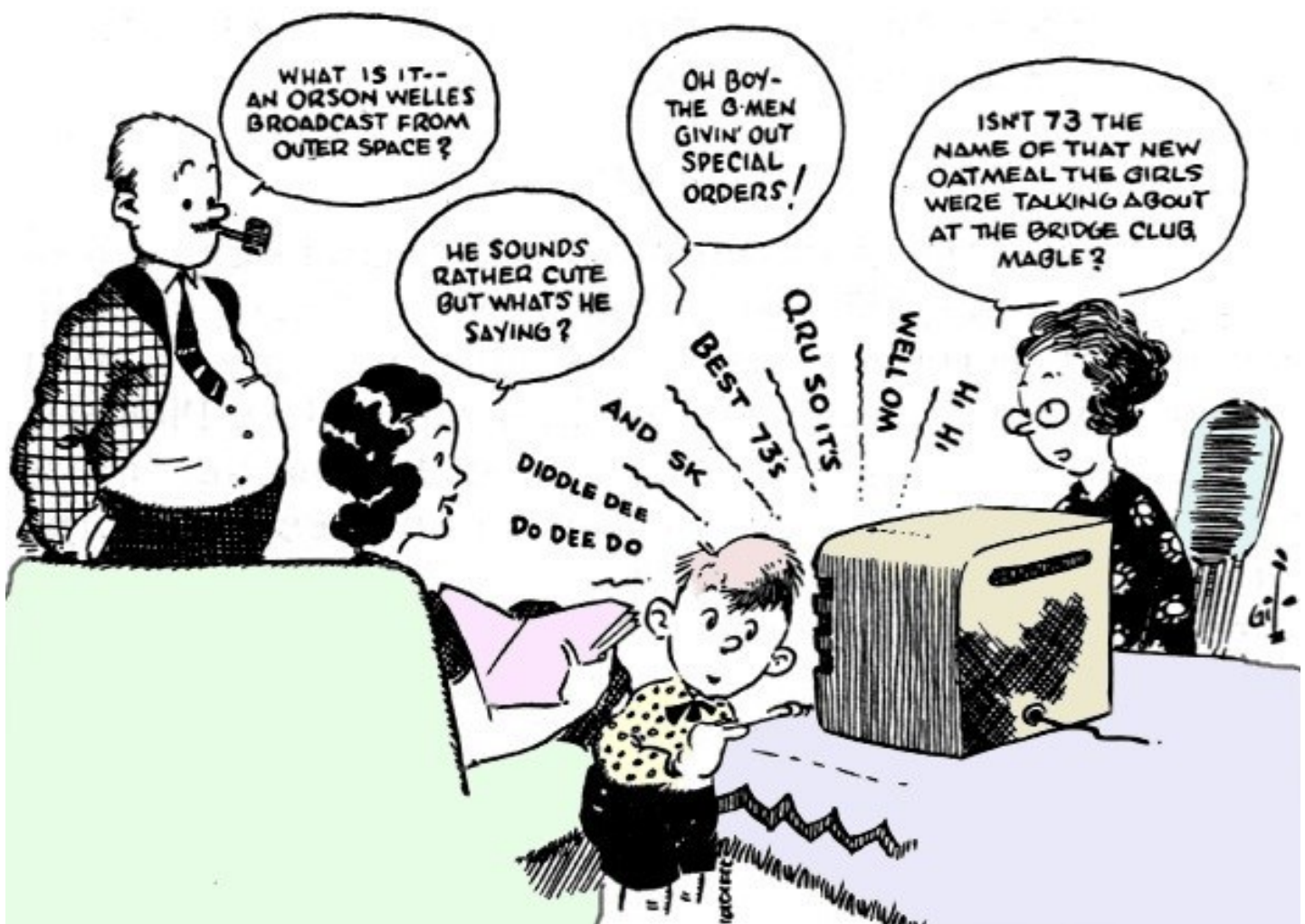
- When the phasing out of the Conditional license was being considered, there was a rumor that all Conditionals would have to retest. This rumor was totally false but raised a lot of hackles at the time.

- When "incentive licensing" was in its formative stages, FCC came out with a 1965 plan that included distinctive callsigns for all amateur license classes, so that you could tell exactly what license class someone had by their callsign - and when you upgraded, your callsign would change. This included Conditionals, who would have callsigns with C or D before the numeral. This part of the proposal was not adopted, even though it would have been a bonanza for the QSL card printers.

- The Callbook did not include license class until 1967.

- All FCC licenses earned by tests not administered by FCC are "conditional" licenses. In practice, this means if FCC has a reason to suspect a licensee isn't qualified, they can require retesting in front of an FCC Examiner in order to retain the license. This "feature" has been used by FCC in the past as an enforcement tool, particularly when FCC suspected that a VE team wasn't following the rules to the letter.

73 de Jim, N2EY



The Mighty DK's!

Monthly QSO Report

Each month in the *Bark* the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you.

It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of **The Mighty DK** to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the *Bark*! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

Clubhouse QSOs October 1 through October 30, 2023:

- Mike W7XH: 1
- Leah KK6DMB: 2
- Adam W2NCC: 3
- Unknown op: 5
- Phil K7PIA: 62
- Mike W7MKE: 64

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

Here is a place..... First is the listing of areas of support,
followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

Here is a place..... First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic

1. Technical questions, Classes	Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
2. Help with Code	Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
3. License Examinations	Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
4. Antenna and Station planning	Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9) and more
5. Antenna and Tower erection	Gary WG7X 253-327-0503 (1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12)
6. Buying new or used equipment	Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
7. Equipment repair	Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)
8. Understanding and operating your equipment	Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
9. DX and Contests	Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
10. Club and ARRL activities	Steve AF7YD 253-988-0878 (4,5,10,12)
11. Using test equipment	
12. IRLP , Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink, Vara, Satellite	

THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Doug Schafer AB7DG@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

THE **LOGGER'S BARK** is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*... and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Gary McAdams WG7X wg7x@w7dk.org

Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma

ARRL Liaison: Unassigned

Send articles to: bark-editor at w7dk.org, or Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

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www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5